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25 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-91: Probable Developments in Indochina

1. Preparation of NIE-91 was speeded because the estimate was needed by the NSC Planning Board. While there was no disagreement among the IAC representatives, there was not time for a clean-up session. Therefore the IAC members may raise substantive points at the IAC meeting. Changes proposed by General Cabell are attached.

2. The central point of the estimate is that the French have lost the initiative. Possibly General Navarre can recapture the initiative; but when the whole picture is examined - in France as well as locally - this seems unlikely. Therefore we expect the French Union position to deteriorate. If it does deteriorate through mid-1953, subsequently it may decline very rapidly.

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